



Town of Blades
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL
20 W Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

***Town Council Meeting
BVFC, East Fifth Street, Blades, DE
7:00PM
April 12, 2021***

Present: Mayor John Reiss, Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield, Councilwoman Ashley Hudson, Councilman Donald Trice, Councilwoman Bobbi Jo Tice, Councilman Russell Joseph and Town Clerk Karen Raines.

Mayor John Reiss officially opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jason Loar with Davis, Bowen & Friedel gave an update on the USDA loan process for funding for the water plant expansion. Loan is in the approval phase now.

Minutes from the April 12, 2021, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield; Seconded by Councilwoman Ashley Hudson. Motion passed, Councilwoman Ashley Hudson – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilwoman Bobbi Jo Tice – Yes, Councilman Russell Joseph – Yes, Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield – Yes. Carried.

Police Report – Submitted by Chief Paul Anthony. Read by Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield.

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – Submitted by Councilman Donald Trice.

❖ Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell.
- Water report - Report submitted by Water Supervisor, Frank O'Day.
- Streets – Report submitted by Councilman Russell Joseph.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted by Bobbi Jo Tice.
- Mayor's Report – Report submitted by Mayor John Reiss.
- Town Administrator Report – No report at the time of this meeting.

❖ New Business:

- Swearing-in to office: Robert Atkinson – Mayor, Michael J Smith – Housing Commissioner. Councilman Donald Trice made a motion to appoint Michael J Smith for Vice-Mayor; Councilman Russell Joseph Seconded; motion passed. Councilman Donald Trice – yes, Councilman Russell Joseph – yes, Councilwoman Ashley Hudson – yes, Councilwoman Bobbi Jo Tice – yes. Carried.
- Motion to accept Weaver Appraisals for Town Appraiser made by Mayor Robert Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Russell Joseph. Motion passed. Councilman Michael J Smith – yes, Councilman



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Donald Trice – yes, Councilman Russell Joseph – yes, Councilman Michael J Smith – yes, Councilwoman Ashley Hudson – yes, Councilwoman Bobbi Jo Tice – yes. Carried.

- Motion to accept Craig Eliassen as Town Solicitor made by Mayor Robert Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Russell Joseph. Motion passed; Councilman Russell Joseph – yes, Councilman Michael J Smith – yes, Councilman Donald Trice – yes, Councilwoman Ashley Hudson – yes, Councilwoman Bobbi Jo Tice – yes. Carried.
- Mayor Robert Atkinson made a motion to table discussion for Hardin Hall demolition for a Workshop, date TBD.
- Police Chief Contract discussion: Motion made to table discussion made by Mayor Robert Atkinson for later discussion at a Workshop, date TBD.
- Mayor Robert Atkinson motioned to discuss change in title for Town Clerk, Karen Raines, to Administrative Assistant to comply with audit. Tabled for Workshop, date TBD.

❖ Old Business:

- No Old Business

❖ Good of the Community

Citizen had concerns about overdue property tax bills and water bills, asking what the Town plans to do to collect past dues. The Town will be mailing past due letters to all homeowners in town notifying them of past due accounts, encouraging them to make payments in full or make payment arrangements as soon as possible or further collection efforts will take place.

Councilman Michael J Smith motioned to adjourn the April 12, 2021, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Councilman Donald Trice.

Mayor Robert Atkinson adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Raines
Town Clerk